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## REPORT

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there was a great deal of rivalry among the communist rulers. It was rumored that Zapetecky would be pensioned and that a serious fight for power was on between Defense Minister Cepicka and Minister of the Interior Barak. Since units of the Pehranion~~s~~ straz and ~~Vojensky sbor~~ (border guards and interior guards) had been placed under the command of the Minister of the Interior and since these units control the army, the position of Cepicka was weak and his influence decreased. He is still in office only because of his Soviet friends who owe him gratitude for the way in which he quickly rebuilt the Czech Army after the Soviet pattern. In the summer of 1954, when Cepicka failed to appear on official occasions for some time, it was rumored that he was in disgrace. Many Czechs now believe that ~~he was~~ ~~removed from office~~ and may be removed from office, allegedly because of the ~~disagreements~~ prevailing in Slovakia.

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associations and to protest against the rearming of West Germany.

4.

[redacted] the present propaganda campaign in Czechoslovakia exploited every occasion to remind the population of the Nazi occupation and the atrocities committed by Nazi murderers in concentration camps, and tried to persuade the Czechs that the Western powers were reestablishing the Nazi Wehrmacht in order to unleash an aggressive war against the peace camp of the people's democracies. The Czechs said that all Communist functionaries actually feared the rearming of West Germany and, that therefore, the World Peace Council continued to stage all sorts of manifestations, indignation meetings and collection of signatures and similar demonstrations. Contrary to the practice of previous years, these attacks were, however, no longer directed against the German people but rather against its government and the German capitalists and Nazis. It was said that the working German people were disappointed with the government policy and that this attitude became apparent through many strikes and peace demonstrations. The Czechs stated that the ten-minute indoctrination courses held at enterprises were used to create a war psychosis. They said that the Slovaks were not alarmed by a possible rearming of Germany but even hoped that this rearming would soon be realized. In this connection, the Czechs called attention to the fact that the Red Stars and other Communist banners were no longer used and that all functionaries showed themselves much more nervous and timid than previously. They mentioned that the functionaries of the Red Star Association in Bratislava used to display their badges only on official occasions but the members of this association no longer show any badges.

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5.

[redacted] the Czechs stated that all Czechs had had to go to the polls under threat of punishment. They stated that by all sorts of maneuvers the elections had neither been free nor secret and that the population believed that the outcome of the elections had been determined beforehand. A number of high-ranking officers were elected. Bratislava for example elected [redacted] General Jan Zeman, Trencin elected Major General Cestmir Skala, [redacted] elected Major Surka and Nitra elected Lieutenant Colonel Keda. [redacted] Tekan was elected a member of the Slovak National Council in Nove Mesto nad Vahom.

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Comment. Rumors about an imminent change of the Czech regime and government have long been spread but have not as yet come true. The propaganda campaign against the Paris Accords is in line with Moscow's directives. This information also confirms the assumption that the Prague Communist regime is unpopular with the large majority of the Slovak population.

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